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Steve Erdman
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Proposed Rule Change – Senator Steve Erdman

Rule 1, Sec. 7. Senator Desiring to Speak. (a) When a member desires to speak in debate or to deliver any matter to the Legislature, he or she shall rise from his or her seat and respectfully address himself or herself to "Mr. or Madame President." A member shall speak only when recognized and shall confine his or her remarks to the question before the Legislature.

(b) No member shall interrupt the business of the Legislature nor speak to another who has the floor, except when he or she may yield to a question. No guest will be introduced during the legislative session except dignitaries and such dignitaries shall only be introduced by the presiding officer, provided that the presiding officer can announce the presence of visiting groups or organizations at his or her discretion. Those individuals and groups not introduced may be inserted in the Journal by request. ~~No member shall use profane or abusive language when speaking to or about another member.~~

Rule 1, Sec. 8. ~~Transgression of Rules, Call Member to Order~~ Germane Speech ~~If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the Legislature, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, call such member to order, in which case he or she shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the Legislature shall, if appealed to, decide the case without debate. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he or she shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise, and if the case requires it, he or she shall be liable to censure or such punishment as the Legislature may deem proper.~~

(a) When speaking, senators shall maintain germane speech by confining their speech to address the question under consideration in an orderly manner. The presiding officer shall, or a member may, call another member to order for non-germane speech.

(b)(i) Germane speech is relevant speech that pertains to the question under consideration or the main subject that has been opened by the underlying bill, resolution, amendment, debatable motion, or rule to which such current question is related, or how it may interact with current law. It may include the discussion of comparisons and interrelated aspects of other bills, resolutions, amendments, or rules that are currently introduced or were previously introduced that are logically connected. It may also include philosophy, principles, research, or lessons that could be logically applied to the question or subject under consideration. This definition shall be liberally applied by the presiding officer and members.

(ii) Non-germane speech is irrelevant or disorderly speech that is persistent in its irrelevance or repetition. Non-germane speech shall be addressed in the manner as expressed in subsections (c) through (e) of this section.

(c) When the presiding officer or another member first calls a member to order for non-germane speech, the presiding officer shall issue a warning and direct the member to keep their remarks

germane to the question before the legislature. If the relevance of their speech is unclear, the presiding officer may allow the member called to order to quickly explain the relevant point they seek to make and then allow them to continue.

(d) If the same member persistently engages in non-germane speech, after at least one warning, the presiding officer shall, or another member may, call the member to order, in which case such member shall sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain. The presiding officer shall then state their ruling on the matter and if in agreement say "The member's speech is non-germane and therefore out of order." If so ruled, the member shall not be permitted to speak on the bill, resolution, rule, or report during the remainder of that stage of debate. A motion to overrule the chair is in order for this subsection.

(e) When a member who has been previously ruled out of order on any stage of debate for non-germane speech is again called to order during any further stage of debate of the same bill or resolution, the presiding officer shall state "Shall the member be twice ruled out of order for non-germane speech?" and the legislature shall decide the case without debate. If the member is twice ruled out of order for non-germane speech, the member shall immediately sit down and not be permitted to speak for the remainder of the debate on that bill or resolution. For this subsection, a motion to overrule the chair shall not be in order. Subsection (e) shall be used for any subsequent non-germane speech by such member on any other bill, resolution, amendment or rule.

Rule 1, Sec. 9. Words Excepted To. No member shall use profane or abusive language, or use the same when speaking to or about another member.

If a member is called to order for words spoken in debate, the member calling him or her to order shall indicate the words excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the Legislature, but he or she shall not be held to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the Legislature therefore, if further debate or other business shall have intervened.

Rule 1, Sec. 12. Transgression of Rules, Call Member to Order. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the Rules of the Legislature, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, call such member to order, in which case he or she shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the Legislature shall, if appealed to, decide the case without debate. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he or she shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise, and if the case requires it, he or she shall be liable to censure or such punishment as the Legislature may deem proper.